

**LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-Minutes**  
**9:30 AM, Friday, January 19, 2024**  
**Room 212, J. Efferson Hall**



**Call to Order**

Rich Vlosky, LSU Ag Faculty Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

**Attendance**

*In-person*

Kayanush Arayna, Andre Brock, Sun Joseph Chang, Chris Dunaway, Carol Friedland, Heather Kirk-Ballard, Ken Gravois, Maddox Miller, Richie Roberts, Mark Schafer, Sara Shields, Cecilia Stevens, Rich Vlosky, Stephen Harrison, and Evelyn Watts

*Online*

Kerry Heafner, Cecilia Stevens, Michael Mamp, Vincius Moreira, Bruce Garner, Kevin McCarter, Brittney Newsome, Raghuwinder Singh, Claudia Husseneder

**Invited Guests**

**Dr. Salassi**

1. Dr. Salassi reported on a USDA research audit that was conducted and looking at grant proposals. The audit went well.
2. The legislative session awarded LSU AgCenter \$11 million for equipment on research stations. \$10 million has been spent so far.
3. Lease for 27 tractors on the research stations went out to bid and Sunshine Equipment won this year's bid.
4. We are hiring 3 precision ag employees with a majority on campus and a smaller teaching and/or extension appointment.

**Dr. Matt Lee, Vice President of Agriculture/Dean, College of Agriculture**

Dr Lee started his remarks with excitement for the year. He explained for a large-scale audit like the research stations had, he questioned the auditors for feedback on how to manage certain situations. Unit head evaluations summaries will be sent to Rich for distribution.

**Legislative update**

Governor Landry has a transition team for agriculture. Dr. Lee reached out to individuals on the team. He engaged in positive and robust conversations with the team about the AgCenter. There are 34 newly elected representatives and approximately 12 newly elected senators. The office is working on district flyers for

the newly elected individuals. Dr. Lee and his staff are going to the Farm Bureau dinners across the state.

### **College of Agriculture**

Dr. Tate is trying to get the rest of the LSU system to understand the AgCenter model of reaching the public where they are through education. He wants to make the LSU experience engaging to all walks of life for teachers, students, and everyone. He wants LSU to be successful in equipping the students with the tools (social and physical needs) to have the best experiences. His focus is on access, opportunity, and to celebrate success. The COA's undergraduate underserved population has grown from 25% to 36% in five years period. 76% of students in the college are female. Dr. Lee encouraged us to keep up the amazing work which makes it easy to get investments from donors. This week he is receiving a \$1 million cash gift from a cattle producer.

### **Extension**

Given the importance of climate on agriculture, the AgCenter is looking into a climatologist consultant which would also work with the Louisiana Department of Ag and Forestry.

**Ashley Gautreaux**, Assistant Vice President; Department, Human Resource Management

Paternity leave is only for civil service employees when birth, foster, or adoption of a child occur. For sabbatical leave, Ashley will send out the first draft on feedback to Rich and the council. It's due back to her within two weeks.

**Fred Piazza**, CIO, LSU AgCenter

Rich is sending an e-mail to Fred for clarification on the full set of LSU IT resource usage. A faculty council member questioned if the IT Advisory Council is informing their constituents, including faculty members, of discussions and decisions. Another faculty council member asked to see the minutes of all the service unit advisory committees.

### **Elections**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

A faculty council member questioned where to bring issues from faculty and students that prior went to the faculty Policy Committee that doctor Richardson created. Most council members agreed that we should voice concerns and questions from our constituents and bring them up to VP Lee and the rest of the faculty council. As a council if there is an issue that needs a resolution from us, we will send one to the appropriate leader.

**2024 Meeting Dates – 9:30am-1:00pm/Room 214 Efferson Hall or Teams**

February 16  
March 22  
April 19  
May 10  
June 14

July 19  
August 16  
September 13  
October 18  
November 15

**Adjourn**

Steve Harrison made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andre Brock. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.